

February 28, 2023

Distinguished Members of the Health Appropriations Subcommittee:

My name is Donna Grossman; I live in Windsor. I am a supporter of CT Against Gun Violence.

I am testifying in support of the \$2.5 million included in the Governor's budget on Line T1449 for the Department of Public Health to fund violence intervention grants in FY2024 and the \$400,000 on Line 274 for operational expenses each year. But given the magnitude of the crisis of gun violence, especially in Connecticut's urban centers, I believe the grant appropriate needs to be larger, at \$10 million in each year of the fiscal 2024-25 budget.

Connecticut has done an admirable job of enacting gun control legislation in recent years, but there are still too many needless deaths here. Community gun violence is a systemic issue, disproportionately affecting Black and Hispanic neighborhoods. To be effective, this issue requires dedicated, ongoing funding for locally-based programs that focus on prevention and intervention. These programs have been proven to "directly and substantially reduce gun violence in the hardest-hot neighborhoods" (reference the Giffords Law Center report "Healing Communities in Crisis").

Black and Hispanic children are routinely exposed to gun violence. And they are sometimes the unwitting victims of it. This must change.

Thank you.

Donna Grossman

Windsor, CT